



The Simeon Antonio Sport Complex officially opens

The latest in a series of sports complexes for youth officially opened its doors on Saturday evening, February 24, after hosting an inaugural demonstration basketball game by the junior league.

The Simeon Antonio Complex is one of a number that have been built or refurbished in the last few years under the auspices of the Ministry of Sports, Labor, and Culture headed by Minister Tai Foo (Ramon) Lee. Working with the people of Lotto pa Deporte and IDEFRE, the ministry is spearheading a movement to provide centers of physical recreation and healthy pastimes for Aruba's youth. Social and health concerns have prompted the construction of centers at Jaburibari, Jara and the complete renovation of the Frans Figaroa Complex in Noord, providing soccer fields, basketball courts and a number of other sport facilities.

Participating in the opening ceremonies by addressing the gathering were the Minister, Ramon Lee, Idi Kock and Jessy Beukenboom, representing Lotto Pa Deporte and IDEFRE, respectively, and closing the opening speeches, Prime Minister Nelson Oduber.

Mr. Beukenboom in particular emphasized the importance of daily exercise and healthy activities in not only Aruba, but also a Western World that is facing one of the worst health challenges ever, Childhood Obesity. He cited the known boons of daily exercise, which can be obtained with only thirty minutes of activity daily, while also imparting the alarming statistics regarding respiratory, heart disease and diabetes, which are affecting more and more young people annually.

Minister Lee also mentioned the pride with which they have invested millions of florins in the new sports centers for the community, and the plans to continue with complexes in Santa Cruz and San Nicolas.

Finally, Minister Lee was joined by Prime Minister Oduber and Simeon Antonio Community Leader Beatrix Gomez, who had steadfastly campaigned for this center, in performing the ribbon cutting and officially opening it to the public. A convivial evening with entertainment by the Grupo di Betico followed, and the families of Simeon Antonio had a wonderful opportunity to enjoy their new complex.